

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8544
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
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USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, ICFTUN SZ, FI PO

SUBJECT: SCANDINAVIAN TRADE UNION RELATIONS WITH PORTUGUESE LABOR AND
ICFTU

REF: A) HELSINKI 815 (NOTAL); B) COPENHAGEN 926

1. DIFFERENCES PERSIST BETWEEN DANISH LO LEADER THOMAS NIELSEN
AND OTHER NORDICS OVER CONTACTS WITH PORTUGUESE INTERSINDICAL .
ACCORDING TO FINNISH TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (SAK)
CHAIRMAN PEKKA OIVIO. SUBJECT WAS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AT LAST
WEEK'S NORDIC TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (NTUC) MEETING IN
FINLAND (REFTEL A). DESPITE DANISH MISGIVINGS INTERSINDICAL
DELEGATION NOW EXPECTED TO VISIT NTUC IN STOCKHOLM IN MAY,
AFTER PORTUGUESE ELECTION, OIVIO TOLD LABATT IRONS AND
VISITING FINNISH DESK OFFICER CANNEY AT LUNCH
APRIL 16.

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2. OIVIO ADMITTED DIRECT ACTION BY FINNISH LABOR IN

SUPPORT OF SOCIAL DEMOCRATS IN PORTUGUESE TRADE UNION MOVEMENT HAMPERED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRAT/ COMMUNIST RIVALRY WITHIN SAK. OIVIO SEES NORDIC SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AS BEST CHANNEL FOR FINNISH MONETARY ASSISTANCE, BUT LITTLE HAS ACTUALLY COME FROM FINLAND SINCE EARLY DAYS OF PORTUGUESE REVOLUTION. PRACTICAL ASSISTANCE IN BUILDING TRADE UNION MOVEMENT IN PORTUGAL ON WEST EUROPEAN MODEL OIVIO BELIEVES COULD BEST BE PROVIDED BY EUROPEAN TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION (ETUC).

3. OIVIO, AND SAK INTERNATIONAL SECRETARY TAPIOLA, REITERATED SAK VIEW THAT ASSISTANCE DIFFICULT IN PRESENT HIGHLY FLUID AND CONFUSED SITUATION AND ALSO THEIR BELIEF THAT ONLY HOPE FOR BUILDING VIABLE TRADE UNION INSTITUTIONS IN PORTUGAL WAS TO SEEK TO BOLSTER DEMOCRATIC FORCES WITHIN INTERSINDICAL RATHER THAN TRYING TO SET UP RIVAL ORGANIZATIONS. IRONS AND CANNEY STRESSED URGENCY OF PROVIDING ALL POSSIBLE SUPPORT, INCLUDING PSYCHOLOGICAL AND MORAL SUPPORT, TO PORTUGUESE DEMOCRATS IN THEIR "HOUR OF CRISIS". FINNS WERE REMINDED OF SCORES OF RESOLUTIONS AUTOMATICALLY ADOPTED BY SCANDINAVIAN LABOR BODIES IN YEARS PAST CONDEMNING SALAZAR REGIME'S SUPPRESSION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. NOW IS THE TIME FOR POSITIVE ACTION TO MAKE DEMOCRACY IN PORTUGAL POSSIBLE, FINNS WERE TOLD.

4. ON ICFTU FINANCIAL PROBLEMS OIVIO SAID NTUC HAD DISCUSSED ABANDONING ITS SOLIDARITY FUND. THERE WAS APPARENTLY BROAD AGREEMENT THAT PURPOSES FOR WHICH SOLIDARITY FUND USED INNATELY POLITICAL AND BETTER HANDLED ON CASE BY CASE BASIS BY INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL TRADE UNION CENTERS. IMPLICATION WAS THAT IF SOLIDARITY FUND IS DROPPED MONEY PRESENTLY ALLOCATED TO IT WOULD BE AVAILABLE FOR REGULAR ICFTU BUDGET.
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